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Politics case study: Even popular politics doesn't come cheap

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Abstract. The case study suggests that popular politics in Pakistan should develop a culture where electoral and electorate should focus on policies and not the personalities as is the standard practice parliamentary governance structure as against presidential form of it.

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1. Introduction: Common man and his political leaders


In History of Pakistan is tainted with dictatorial rules while examples for the struggle for democratic precedence are also ample. Due to decades of dictatorial rules, it is a common culture among some in country's intelligentsia and public to undermine and sometimes outrightly abuse the political personalities and many such negative exhibits are common occurrence especially with the advent of social media where people can hide behind fake avatars and aliases. Generally people do not realize that popular politics is a serious profession that requires complex social networking at grass roots level. In a developing country like Pakistan where poverty is rampant and human development indicators score low, popular politics become a daunting task. (see [Lipset, 1960](#))


Frustration with own circumstances lead to the blame game by especially targeting the political class is standard exposition of lack of respect for others (e.g. other economic class or other social group). The actions of verbal abuse is usually hurled towards people with opposing political views by tarnishing public, private and personal image of their political representatives. This is done without realizing that political constituencies come along to elect their representatives with a lot of time and effort.

For example in his adult life an average Pakistani, if he is doing socially well, may at best can gather a thousand acquaintances on average who may have favorable opinion about him. Usually this figure stands in between hundred to couple of hundreds. Any such citizen would have a very successful social profile in the society and would consider himself to be of benefit to his peers and rightly so. He would know better that respect and its positive dividends that works both ways do not come cheap in time, money and effort.

Another way to look at it is if a person receives accolades from hundred peers in a day while he is in business with them, it most probably would be the most successful and salient and memorable day of his life when everything he has done is right and very well approved by. Similarly an average alias on social media can at best muster up few hundred followers mostly related to his business or private life.

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On the contrary, on average a popular politician contesting on a seat of a national assembly draws at least fifty thousand voters in his/her favor. In the context of the arguments mentioned above this asks for a lot of respect from even the most vehement critiques of his/her person or his/her political party. There is a popular saying in Muslim culture that it is the prerogative of Allah and his alone to give some one respect or otherwise in the society. So negativity even for ulterior motives would eventually come around to affect the breeder and may instead elevate the social status of the victim further.

So people in Pakistan who disrespect the constituent assemblies and its members are at best misguided and should be counseled to form a more informed, rational and stable view of popular politics and its practitioners. Many nongovernmental organizations are trying to educate the masses towards a decent and bouyant democratic culture in Pakistan and their good work should be appreciated and promoted.

It is also incumbent to the political leadership from National assembly to Union Council to transform their electorate gain into self sustainable and harmonized democratic cycle by working for the rights of citizens without discriminating between social, political, economic, racial, sexual or religious orientation. Popular politics should compete on policies and not on personalities at national as well at grass roots level. Popular politics does not come cheap for the electorate as well as the electoral.

References

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